

## **Case Study # 1.8**

**Issue:** Mosquito Control

**Background:**

- Mosquitoes breed in almost all types of standing water, with exception of Biscayne Bay, most lakes, and canals
- Water collected in artificial containers such as tires, buckets, cans, jars, and bird baths also breeds mosquitoes. These containers should be disposed of or emptied weekly.
- Bromeliads breed mosquitoes and should be flushed weekly or treated with vegetable oil

**How Miami-Dade County enforces the Code:**

- Warning notice provides five (5) days for compliance
- Failure to correct the violation results in a \$200 daily fine
- Public Works Department contracts for the removal of waste tires breeding mosquitoes when necessary

**Instructions:** Ask for 2 volunteers to be a County Representative and a County Resident.

**Time:** 15 minutes

**Players:** Public Works Code Enforcement Officer – Mr. Ur Mine  
County Resident – Ms. Mea Culpa

**Scenario:** A complaint was received by the Public Works Department about a residence owned and occupied seasonally by a Ms. Mea Culpa. Ms. Mea Culpa and her daughter reside in Canada during the summer months and reside in their South Florida residence during the winter months. It is April 2004 and Ms. Culpa and her daughter are getting ready to go back to Canada for the summer. Ms. Culpa spent over \$10,000 a couple of months ago in enhancing her front yard with a bromeliad garden surrounded by 2 very large bird baths. Ms. Culpa also had a tire swing installed on the oak tree in front of the house for her daughter to play with. Although the investment in her front yard enhanced the overall property value, it did create an unforeseen problem, mosquito infestation. This did not sit well with some of their neighbors, especially with Ms. Sue Yoo. Ms. Culpa's neighbors were getting major mosquito infestations with the sitting water in the tire, bird baths, and the bromeliads and it was only April. Ms. Sue Yoo contacted the Public Works Department, and Mr. Ur Mine from Public Works came out and gave a warning notice of five (5) days for compliance. Ms. Culpa told Mr. Mine that she wasn't aware of this ordinance and she was leaving in three days for Canada. She spent over \$10,000 to enhance her property and now she is going to get a \$200 daily fine. "This is ridiculous!" stated Ms. Culpa. "I am going to contact my attorney right now."

**Have two volunteers play Ms. Culpa and Mr. Mine and provide a win-win scenario. Mr. Mine what would you do?**